SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: Yes, Sir.

डा. वाई. लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, जिन एजेंसियों के माध्यम से हमारे युवाओं और महिलाओं को वेतन-वृद्धि की आशा दिलाकर वहां भेजा जाता है, क्या उन एजेंसियों पर हमारी सरकार का कोई नियंत्रण है और उन एजेंसियों के जो क्रियाकलाप हैं, उनका कोई रिकार्ड हमारे पास है, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं?

श्री रमाकांत डी. खलप: माननीय सभापति महोदय, इस प्रश्न का उत्तर भी मैंने दे रखा है।

This supplementary pertains to the Labour Ministry. There are certain laws and regulations under which these organisations are registered....(*Interruptions*)....

श्री जनार्दन यादव: आप लेबर मिनिस्ट्री से कन्सल्ट करके आते न।

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: A separate question may be asked.

Budgetary Allocation for National Waterways in Kerala

*203. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total budgetary allocation for the work of National Waterways in Kerala during the last financial year;

(b) whether the allocated funds were fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the remaining funds are transferred to any other States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A provision of Rs. 1.00 crore was allocated in the Annual Plan 1995-96 (Central Scheme) for development of National Waterways in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The actual expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 97.00 lakhs which is 97% of the total funds allocated.

(d) No, Sir.

SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, the length of the national waterways in Kerala is so vast. So, when we consider such a vast length of waterways, the money allocated, that is, Rs. 1 crore, is meagre So, I would like to know from the hon. Ministe whether the Government has got a plan to increase the allocation to Kerala.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, my earphone is not working. So, I couldn't hear the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is, since the waterway is very extensive in Kerala, the Member would like to know whether more funds will be allotted for the development of waterways.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, I require notice for this question since it does not relate to the main question.....(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It does pertain to the main question. He has only asked about the allocation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a related question.....*(Interruptions)* It is a logically related question. Have you any proposal to increase the allocation in Kerala?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, for 1996-97, the allotment is Rs. 4 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you have increased the allocation, isn't it?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which are the areas on which the work has been completed and when we can expect the other areas also to be covered.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, the total allocation in the Eighth Plan was Rs. 62.5 crores for the development of West Coast Canal. In the first year, namely, 1992-93, the provision was Rs. 1.5 crores, but only Rs. 10 lakhs were spent as the canal was not declared a national highway. In the second year, 1993-94, the details of the scheme were not fully worked out and staff was not available. Therefore, the expenditure was only Rs. 70 lakhs as against an allocation of Rs. 3 crores. In the third year of the Plan, only Rs. 1 crore was made available in the Budget out of which Rs. 89 lakhs were spent. In the fourth year of the Plan, out of the proposed outlay of Rs. 8.5 crores, only Rs. 1 crore was made available out of which Rs. 97 lakhs were spent. In the last year of the Plan, 1996- 97, that is the current year, Rs. 4 crores have been provided. All the schemes are now ready for implementation.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, as everybody knows, Kerala is a beautiful land of lagoons and backwaters. These waterways was a maior area for transportation even before the steam engine came into force. Since the waterways connect the land from the capital of the State up to even Kasorgod, the total length can be connected easily. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this project has been pending for more than 10 years. Only a small portion of the area has been covered. And the Minister says that Rs. 4 crores have been alloted. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will increase the proposed allotment of Rs. 4 crores and see to it that at least one area is completed so as to provide better transportation more so when water transportation is the cheapest of all.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, in the current year, the entire provision of Rs. 4 crores will be utilised towards capital dredging, land acquisition, repairs to three navigational locks, hydrographic survey, consultancy services and organisational expenses. The remaining portion of the scheme will have to spill over to the Ninth Plan and the waterway is expected to be developed before the end of the Ninth Plan provided funds are made available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karunakaran.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: I think it is his maiden question.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while replying to the question, the Minister has admitted that whatever money was allotted was not spent by the Department. Why was the money allotted not spent by the Department? What is the reason for that? Will the hon. Minister take immediate steps to rectify the defects, if there are any?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, 97% of the money allotted was spent in 1995- 96. The amounts spent are: Rs. 5.7 lakhs for land; Rs. 18.65 lakhs for dredging; Rs. 16.03 lakhs for bank protection: Rs. 2.7 lakhs for navigation

work and Rs. 1 lakh for aid in navigation work. So, this is the amount which was spent. The work is being speeded up. In the years to come, it will be completed.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: My question is why the money allotted was not spent. What is the reason for that? If there are any shortcomings, will the hon. Minister take care to see that whatever amount is sanctioned is spent?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the year 1995-96, almost a major portion of the money allotted was spent. I think you are referring to previous years. Mr. Minister.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, allotment is made every year. They are making some allotment. Provision of money is envisaged in the Plan. The amount spent is one thing and the allotment made is a different thing. Within the allotment, expenditure is incurred. We are asking for a larger allotment. We will do it in the years to come.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Please complete at least some portion at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerra Narayanaswamy. Mr. Narayanaswamy, have you any question on Kerala? If your question is out-side Kerala, please don't ask such a question.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last many years, there are demands for an inland waterways project on river Godavari. Whether the Government has sanctioned an inland waterways project on river Godavari from Bhadrachalam to Rajahmundry to transport coal and minerals to Rajahmundry railway head?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask another question.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, this does not come under the purview of the present question. I need a notice for this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Question No. 204

गुजरात के हथकरघा बुनकरों की समस्यायें

*204. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह गंगरोला: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में हथकरघा क्षेत्र में कार्यरत श्रमिकों की जिला-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) राज्य में हथकरघा बुनकरों द्वारा किन-किन मुख्य समस्याओं का सामना किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उनकी समस्याओं के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन करवाया है; और

(घ) हथकरघा बुनकरों की समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement

(a) Data about number of labourers in handloom sector is not maintained.

(b) The main problems being faced by the handloom weavers in the Gujarat State are generally in regard to inadequate production, productivity, market support, design inputs, cooperative coverage etc.

(c) Problems of Handloom weavers are being constantly studied in all the States including Gujarat.

(d) On the basis of proposals received from the State Govt. of Gujarat, requisite assistance have been provided by the Govt. under various on-going schemes and programmes such as Handloom Development Centre, Janata Cloth, Market Development Assistance, Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Marketing facilities, Health Package, Thrift Fund, Decentralised training, Design inputs etc.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आज बुनकरों की क्या समस्या है? एक ही समस्या है कि बाजार में सूत नहीं है और सरकार में सत्य नहीं है। माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सूत की कीमत आज बढ़ गई है। यह कीमत बढ़ने से जो बुनकर कपड़ा बनाते है इसका भी दाम बढ़ गया है। पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी ने एक रिपोर्ट दी थी कि हैंडलूम के सूत की कीमत को कम किया